

REMARKS

Claims 5, 12, and 16 remain in the application with claim 5 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Gefvert in view of Ruzicka, Lee '718, Siems et al., and Glover.

The present invention provides a system for foolproof hook-up of a multi-channel audio system, in part by providing each audio signal output terminals to be distinguished by one of a plurality of different respective colors that enables each of the plurality of channels to be discernible. The distinguishing is effected by a use of a color mark that shows the respective output terminal with the mark being displayed surrounding the respective output terminal on the back panel of the electronic apparatus.

These features of the present invention are clearly set forth in the claims.

As previously noted, Gefvert relates to a multiple loudspeaker system of the kind that would benefit from practicing the teachings of the present invention.

Although Ruzicka is cited for showing of use of a plurality of colors for enabling a plurality of channels to be discernible, as will be noted, Ruzicka does not follow this approach and teaches the avoidance thereof.

Siems et al. is cited for showing the use of color coding to identify electrical connectors and also for the use of heat shrink plastic markers to be attached to connecting cables.

Glover is cited for showing a connector having an orientation feature so that polarities are maintained and is also cited for providing pins in the connector body.

Lee '718 relates to a power line conditioner that is cited to show forming colored marks surrounding output terminals. In Lee '718, the actual output terminals themselves comprising power outlets are colored, red, for example, and it is stated that various program sources would be assigned a certain color such as red. Then the assigned-red units would be plugged into the red outlets.

Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Lee '718 does not cure the deficiencies of Gefvert and Ruzicka as noted hereinabove and, moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Lee '718 does not correspond to the features of the present invention relating to having the cable members display a color mark designating the channel and surrounding the output terminal, so that the cable members can confirm whether the connection is correct while the cable member is already plugged into the terminal. Lee '718 does not relate to any channels, since Lee '718 relates to power outlets and, thus, would provide no clue to one with ordinary skill in this art relating to identifying channels being plugged into output terminals bearing specific indicia.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 12 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee '718, Siems et al., Glover, and further in view of Lee '717.

Claim 12 depends from claim 5 which for the reasons set forth hereinabove is thought to be patentably distinct over the cited references and, for at least those very same reasons, claim 12 is also submitted to be patentably distinct thereover.

Lee '717 relates to a electrical cable having a number of end portions terminating in electrical connectors and in which colored bands are placed around the electrical connectors. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Lee '717 does not cure the deficiencies of Gefvert and Ruzicka, as noted hereinabove.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Ruzicka in view of Lee '718, Siems et al., and Glover.

As noted above, Lee '718 provides a power conditioner with outlets into which plugs are to be inserted, with the power outlets being divided into two categories and with each category having its own color corresponding to the type of electronic apparatus to be plugged into the outlet.

Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited reference disclose or suggest a multi-channel audio system having an electronic apparatus with a plurality of audio signal output terminals mounted on a rear panel thereof and a plurality of speakers for generating acoustic output for each of the plurality of channels, wherein a plurality of colored labels are attached respectively to rear surfaces of the plurality of speakers, each colored label having a different respective color, a plurality of connecting cable

members each having a pair of conductor members, each of the plurality of conducting cable members being individually sheathed with an insulating sheathing member and used for connecting the electronic apparatus to the plurality of speakers, wherein the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the plurality of channels are individually distinguished by a plurality of different colored sheaths affixed respectively to surround the audio signal output terminals, so that the user can visually discern the individual channels. Moreover, the references do not suggest a color distribution of the colored sheets corresponding to a color distribution of the colored labels so that the plurality of connecting cable members is provided with specific different colors corresponding to a color distribution of the colors of the plurality of colored sheaths respectively surrounding the plurality of audio signal output terminals, thereby permitting the user to visually discern individual channels and correspond to a color distribution of the plurality of color labels affixed to the plurality of speakers. This permits the distinguishing of each of the plurality of connecting cable members to be performed using a plurality of thermally contractile tubes each bearing a different color and secured to each of the plurality of connecting cable members with each plug connector structure having a different respective color corresponding to the color distribution of the plurality of colored labels and their plurality of colored sheaths. These features are all recited


in claim 16 and are not found in the combination of references even including the newly cited Lee '718.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a connecting scheme for a multi-channel audio system, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" clearly distinguishable.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb